



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/652,292

08/30/2003

Mary B. Morris

BS02260

1806

38516 7590 07/29/2008

SCOTT P. ZIMMERMAN, PLLC

PO BOX 3822

CARY, NC 27519

EXAMINER

THEIN, MARIA TERESA T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3627

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/29/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/652,292	Applicant(s) MORRIS ET AL.	
	Examiner MARISSA THEIN	Art Unit 3627	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 April 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 11-22 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 August 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election without traverse of Group 1 (claims 1-10) in the reply filed on April 18, 2008 is acknowledged.

Drawings

The drawings filed on August 30, 2003 are not acceptable, some of the figures contain text which may affect clarity when reproduced.

Claim Objections

Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 1, line 2 "accessing a bill record of the customer" should be -- accessing a bill record of a customer--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,337,901 to Rome et al.

Regarding claim 1, Rome discloses accessing a billing record of the customer form a carrier accessing bill system, wherein the billing record is accessed from multiple customer operation units and multiple revenue accounting offices, and wherein the carrier access billing system maintains billing records for wholesale customers that

purchase blocks of telephone capacity (col. 2, lines 23-25; col. 3, lines 32-37; col. 3, lines 59-65; col. 4, lines 2-3); compiling the billing the record to create a merged billing record (abstract; col. 3, lines 32-37); and processing merged billing record to crate an access customer analysis database comprising data associated with at least one of a customer, a service agreement, a service usage, a service rate, a service avaialbity, a type of service and a service region (col. 3, lines 32-41).

Regarding claims 2-8, Rome discloses accessing the access customer analysis database (col. 3, lines 59-62); creating an access carrier service rate and billing detail based on the merged billing record, the access carrier service rate and billing detail comprising data associated with at a customer, a service agreement, a service usage, a service rate, a service avaialbity, a type of service and a service region, wherein the access carrier service rate and billing detail provides at least one of customer, a service agreement, a service usage, a service rate, a service avaialbity, a type of service and a service region is a service agreement, a service usage, a service rate, a service avaialbity, a type of service and a service region administrative report, a sales proposal, a customer billing dispute resolution report, a product analysis and development tool, an update to a discount plan, an input of a billing adjustment, an modifications of billing data and a modification to rate data (col. 3, lines 39-44; col. 4, lines 25-52); presenting an interactive graphical user interface for selecting at least one of a group of accounts under one access carrier customer , a relation between a plurality of access carrier customers, and a unique access carrier customer-based information (col. 6, line 63-col. 7, line 4; col. 7, lines 14-29); presenting an interactive graphical user interface for

selecting at least one of s customer identifier, a service agreement, etc (col. 6, lint 63-col. 7, line 4; col. 8, lines 18-35; col. 12, lines 32-54; Figure 5); presenting an interactive graphical user interface for associating at least one of s customer identifier, a service agreement, etc (col. 6, lint 63-col. 7, line 4; col. 8, lines 18-35; col. 12, lines 32-54; Figure 5); reporting the access carrier service rate and billing detail to the customer (col. 12, lines 32-67; Figure 5); using the access carrier service rate and billing detail to manage an access carrier rate and billing plan (col. 6, line 63-col. 7, line 4; col. 8, lines 18-35; col. 12, lines 32-54; Figure 5); and displaying at least one of alternate promotion codes, rate plants, and service agreements (col. 6, line 63-col. 7, line 4; col. 8, lines 18-35; col. 12, lines 32-54; Figure 5).

Regarding claim 9, Rome discloses retrieving data relevant to terms and conditions of the access carrier service rate and billing detail; calculating a discount; creating an other-charge-and credit based on the discount; and passing the other-charge, and-credit to the carrier access billing system for inclusion to the plan (col. 9, lines 51-64).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,337,901 to Rome et al. in view of U.S. Patent Publication Application No. 2001/00510911 to Eastman.

Regarding claim 10, Rome substantially discloses the claimed invention, however, Rome does not explicitly disclose the local exchange routing guide information system maintains routing and rate records for terminating a telephone call to an appropriate telephone number at a proper rate. Rome does disclose the analyzing customer value within a service region (col. 1, line 66).

Eastman, on the other hand, teaches the local exchange routing guide information system maintains routing and rate records for terminating a telephone call to an appropriate telephone number at a proper rate (paragraph 45).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the method of Rome, to include the local exchange routing guide information system maintains routing and rate records for terminating a telephone call to an appropriate telephone number at a proper rate, as taught by Eastman, in order to terminate calls with the least cost and the highest quality service (Eastman, paragraph 45).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0026394 to Savage et al. discloses a computerized method and system for combined billing for at least one customer on a plurality of customer accounts.

U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0123919 to Brockman discloses obtaining telecommunication data of a business entity from its communication vendors and providing that business entity with aggregated telecommunications data.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MARISSA THEIN whose telephone number is (571)272-6764. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ryan Zeender can be reached on 571-272-6790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Mtot /M. T./
Examiner, Art Unit 3627
July 17, 2008

/Michael Cuff/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3627